GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:401
ANSWERED ON:04.05.2012
PROCUREMENT OF DRUGS
Singh Shri Uday Pratap

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the norms laid down and the mechanism put in place by the Government for procurement of drugs for Central Government hospitals and dispensaries across the country;

(b) whether the Government has observed certain difficulties in the absence of a central ized/unified system which hampers monitoring of the availability and movement of drugs; (

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has proposed/taken certain measures including setting up of a Central Procurement Agency to overcome the above difficulties; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD)

(a)to(e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 401 FOR 4.05.2012

(a): Procurement of drugs for the central government hospitals and CGHS dispensaries is done through the mechanism of drug purchase committees specified for the purpose. They follow the relevant provisions of General Financial Rules (GFR) of Government of India. To ensure procu rement of quality drugs, certain additional norms are also followed in the tender process, such as GMP (Good Manufacturing Practices) compliance, valid manufacturing/import license, pre-dis patch quality control, manufacturing and marketing experience, minimum turnover criteria, etc.

(b) & (c): The Department of Health & Family Welfare has also been procuring drugs for distri bution under various National health programmes. At present, this procurement process does not have an IT-enabled unified supply chain management system for effective monitoring of inventory and movement of drugs.

(d) & (e): Government has decided to establish an autonomous Central Procurement Agency (CPA) under the Department of Health & Family Welfare. The CPA has been registered on 22nd March, 2012 under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 in the name of Central Medical Services Society (CMSS). The CPA will have the mandate to procure medicines and other medical supplies, presen tly being done by the Department of Health & Family Welfare, under various National health pro grammes. It would adopt an IT-enabled unified supply chain management system for effective mon itoring of inventory and movement of health sector goods, including drugs.